CCRB INVESTIGATIVE RECOMMENDATION

Investigator:		Team:	CCRB Case #:	✓ Force	☐ Discourt.	☐ U.S.
Abigail Shuster		Squad #15	201409828	☑ Abuse	O.L.	☐ Injury
Incident Date(s)		Location of Incident:		Precinct:	18 Mo. SOL	EO SOL
Monday, 09/15/2014 6:30 PM		Van Buren Street and Throop Avenue; 79th Precinct stationhouse		79	3/15/2016	3/15/2016
Date/Time CV Reported		CV Reported At:	How CV Reported:	Date/Tin	ne Received at CC	RB
Mon, 09/22/2014 2:59 PM		CCRB Call Processing System Mon		Mon, 09/	on, 09/22/2014 2:59 PM	
Complainant/Victim	Туре	Home Addre	ess			
Witness(es)		Home Addre	ess			
Subject Officer(s)	Shield	TaxID	Command			
1. POM Adam Dumelle	07474	948001	079 PCT			
2. SGT David Leonardi	04982	930557	079 PCT			
3. POF Pamela Benites	13086	946728	079 PCT			
Witness Officer(s)	Shield No	o Tax No	Cmd Name			
1. POM Eduardo Cornejo	13722	936390	079 PCT			
2. POM Terrence Howard	10504	950599	079 PCT			
Officer(s)	Allegatio	n		Inv	vestigator Reco	nmendation
A.POM Adam Dumelle		t Van Buren Street and Dumelle stopped § 87(2)		Brooklyn		
B.POF Pamela Benites	Abuse: A PO Pame	t Van Buren Street and la Benites stopped § 87(2)	Throop Avenue in E and \$87(2)(b)			
C.POM Adam Dumelle		t Van Buren Street and Dumelle frisked § 87(2)(t		Brooklyn		
D.POM Adam Dumelle	Abuse: At Van Buren Street and Throop Avenue in Brooklyn PO Adam Dumelle searched §87(2)(b)					
E.POF Pamela Benites	Abuse: At Van Buren Street and Throop Avenue in Brooklyn PO Pamela Benites frisked \$87(2)(b)					
F.POF Pamela Benites		t Van Buren Street and la Benites searched § 87(2)		Brooklyn		
G.POM Adam Dumelle		Van Buren Street and Ton Dumelle used physical				
H.POM Adam Dumelle		Van Buren Street and Ton Dumelle used a chokel		rooklyn,		
I.SGT David Leonardi		Van Buren Street and T d Leonardi used a taser		rooklyn,		

Officer(s)	Allegation	Investigator Recommendation
J.SGT David Leonardi	Abuse: At the 79th Precinct stationhouse, Sgt. David Leonardi authorized the strip-search of \$87(2)(b) and \$87(2)(b)	
K.POM Adam Dumelle	Abuse: At the 79th Precinct stationhouse, PO Adam Dumell searched § 87(2)(b) s property.	е
§ 87(2)(g), § 87(4-b)		

Case	Summary	7

On September 15, 2014, at approximately 6:30pm, \$87(2)(b) and \$87(2)(b) were standing in front of a grocery store, located at the intersection of Van Buren Street and Throop Avenue in Brooklyn, along with one or two unidentified males. They alleged the following: an unmarked police vehicle pulled up to the store, and PO Pamela Benites and PO Adam Dumelle approached \$87(2)(b) and \$87(2)(b) and \$87(2)(c) an
As PO Dumelle began turning around to handcuff him, \$87(2)(b) inquired as to why he was being arrested, and PO Dumelle punched him twice on the right side of his face (Allegation G) before placing him in a chokehold in an effort to get \$87(2)(b) to the ground (Allegation H), where he landed facedown.
PO Eduardo Cornejo, PO Terrence Howard, and Sgt. David Leonardi, arrived at the scene to assist in \$87(2)(b) s apprehension, and Sgt. Leonardi used a Taser against \$87(2)(b) (Allegation I).
At the 79 th Precinct stationhouse, Sgt. Leonardi authorized strip-searches of (Allegation J). PO Dumelle, prior to questioning (Sa7(2)(b)) about the transaction, searched the contents of (Sa7(2)(b)) s cell phone (Allegation K). (Sa7(2)(b)) s arrest was voided, and (Sa7(2)(b)) was charged with (Sa7(2)(b)).
§ 87(4-b), § 87(2)(g)
Mediation, Civil and Criminal Histories Because arrests were made, this case was determined to be ineligible for mediation. No notices of claim have been filed in regard to this incident (BR 31). [\$ 87(2)(5)] [\$\$ 86(1)(3)&(4)] [\$ 87(2)(5)]
 Civilian and Officer CCRB Histories This is the first CCRB complaint filed by \$87(2)(b) (BR 23). This is the first CCRB complaint in which \$87(2)(b) or \$87(2)(b) has been a victim (BR 23). PO Adam Dumelle has served as a police officer for six years and has had 25 CCRB allegations pled against him, involving 12 cases and resulting in two substantiated allegations. His two substantiated allegations were a frisk and a search – two of the same allegations being pled against PO Dumelle in this case (BR 22).

22). § 87(2)(g)

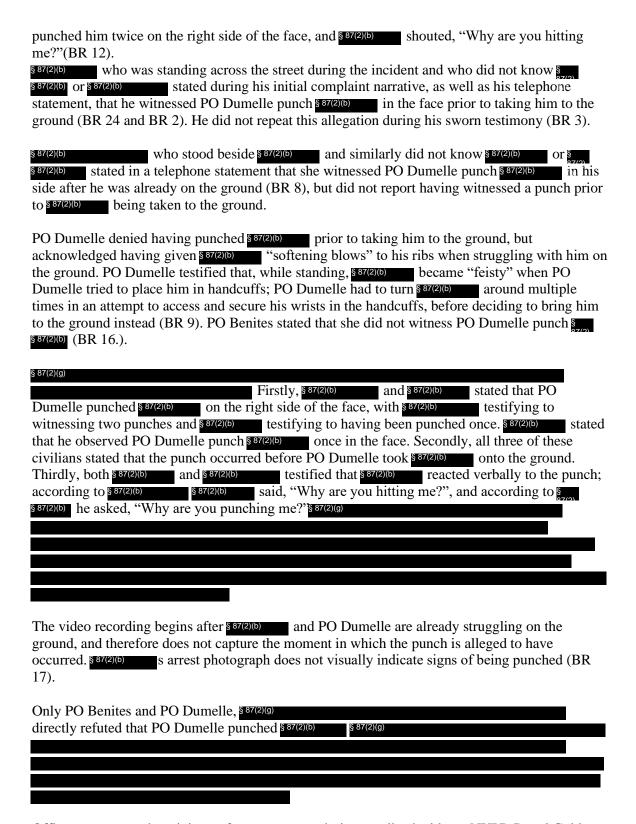
PO Pamela Benites has served on the police force for six years and has been the subject of 17 CCRB allegations involving ten cases, resulting in one substantiated allegation (BR

• Sgt. David Leonardi has served on the police force for 12 years and has had 59 CCRB allegations pled against him, involving 23 cases, resulting in eight substantiated allegations (BR 22). On two recent and separate occasions (case numbers 201401016 and 201408861), the allegation that Sgt. Leonardi authorized an unjustified strip search was substantiated \$37(2)(9)
Allegations Not Pled
• Failure to Obtain Medical Attention: Sgt. Leonardi testified that the Taser that he used against \$\frac{887(2)(0)}{2}\$ was ineffective and that its prongs never made contact with his skin (BR 14). Sgt. Leonardi's Taser report contains the same information, and he similarly stated that the photos taken of \$\frac{887(2)(0)}{2}\$ s back did not indicate that the prongs made contact with his skin (BR). Sgt. Leonardi explained that he had declined to obtain medical attention for \$\frac{887(2)(0)}{2}\$ because his Taser had never made contact with \$\frac{8}{27(2)}\$ s skin. \$\frac{887(2)(0)}{2}\$ himself, although he alleged to have felt its shock, reported no injuries as a result of the Taser (BR 13). \$\frac{887(2)(0)}{2}\$
Recommendations
Allegation A – Abuse of Authority – At Van Buren Street and Throop Avenue in Brooklyn, PO Adam Dumelle stopped \$87(2)(b) and \$87(2)(b) Allegation B – Abuse of Authority – At Van Buren Street and Throop Avenue in Brooklyn, PO Pamela Benites stopped \$87(2)(b) and \$87(2)(b) Allegation C - Abuse of Authority – At Van Buren Street and Throop Avenue in Brooklyn, PO Adam Dumelle frisked \$87(2)(b) Allegation D – Abuse of Authority – At Van Buren Street and Throop Avenue in Brooklyn, PO Adam Dumelle searched \$87(2)(b) Allegation E – Abuse of Authority – At Van Buren Street and Throop Avenue in Brooklyn, PO Adam Dumelle searched \$87(2)(b) Allegation E – Abuse of Authority – At Van Buren Street and Throop Avenue in Brooklyn,
PO Pamela Benites frisked \$87(2)(b)
Allegation F – Abuse of Authority –At Van Buren Street and Throop Avenue in Brooklyn, PO Pamela Benites searched \$87(2)(6)
It is undisputed that PO Dumelle and PO Benites stopped \$87(2)(b) and \$87(2)(b) and that PO Dumelle then frisked \$87(2)(b) and PO Benites then frisked \$87(2)(b) The civilians alleged that these stops and frisks occurred, and the officers acknowledged performing them (BR 12, BR 13, BR 16, BR 9).
stated that, immediately after frisking him, PO Dumelle searched his pockets (BR 13). stated that PO Benites reached into one of his pockets after asking what stated that PO Dumelle testified that stated that stated that both individuals were under arrest at the point (BR 12). PO Dumelle testified that stated that both individuals were under arrest at that point (BR 9, BR 16). Though both officers denied having searched their respective arrestees, PO Dumelle testified that he saw PO Benites attempt to search stated that both individuals were under arrestees, PO Dumelle testified that he saw PO Benites attempt to search stated that both individuals were under arrestees, PO Dumelle testified that he saw PO Benites attempt to search stated that both individuals were under arrestees, PO Dumelle testified that he saw PO Benites attempt to search stated that both individuals were under arrestees, PO Dumelle testified that he saw PO Benites attempt to search stated that both individuals were under arrestees, PO Dumelle testified that he saw PO Benites attempt to search stated that both individuals were under arrestees, PO Dumelle testified that he saw PO Benites attempt to search stated that both individuals were under arrestees.
§ 87(2)(g)
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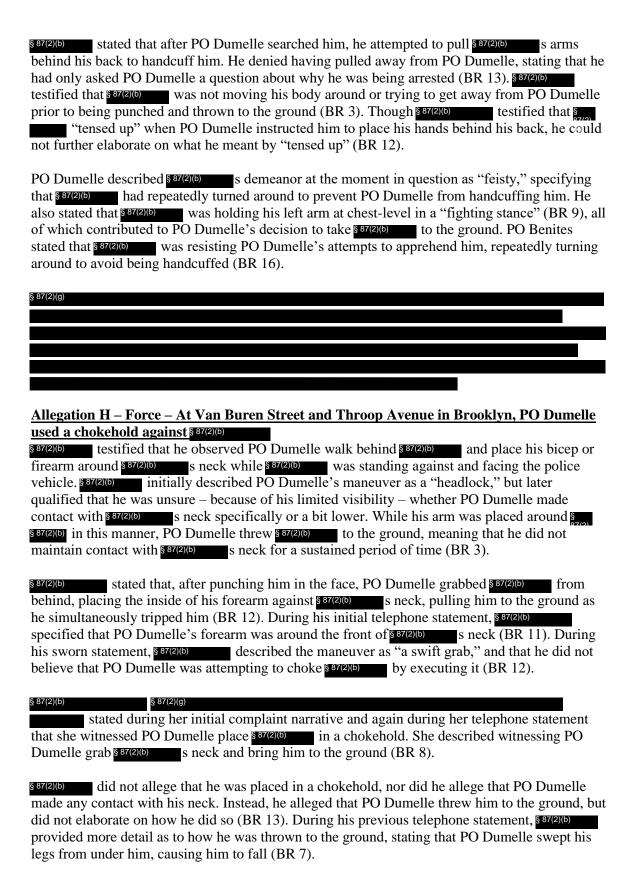
§ 87(2)(g)
PO Benites and PO Dumelle testified that they saw \$87(2)(b) engage in what appeared to be drug transactions with multiple individuals, the last of whom was \$87(2)(b) PO Dumelle testified that two or three unknown individuals approached \$87(2)(b) one at a time, made some sort of quick exchange, and then left on foot. In each case, the individuals took objects out of their pockets and \$87(2)(b) took objects out of his pocket or waist area and handed it to them, and they then left. After \$87(2)(b) rode up to \$87(2)(b) on a bicycle and made an exchange in the same manner as the other individuals, \$87(2)(b) took possession of \$87(2)(b) so before either of them left.
Video footage captures the entirety of the time that \$87(2)(b) spent at the incident location (BR 5, Transcript: BR 33). No transactions between \$87(2)(b) and \$87(2)(b) or between any other individuals, are identifiable in the video. Immediately prior to the officers' approach, the video shows \$87(2)(b) standing in front of the grocery store for several minutes, having an extended conversation with two individuals when \$87(2)(b) rides up to them on his bicycle. \$87(2)(b) begins to walk away with it. The video, which freezes at several moments, does not capture any hand-to-hand contact or exchanges between the two individuals but shows them in close proximity. No money and no objects, other than \$87(2)(b) so bicycle, are seen on video at any time prior to the officers' approach.
§ 87(2)(g)
§ 87(2)(g)
While PO Benites affirmed that she saw both money and objects – which she described as plastic bags she suspected of containing marijuana – being exchanged, PO Dumelle testified that he could not see whether money was exchanged at all, and due to his distance from where was standing, he was unable to actually see any of the items which he believed were being exchanged. Since PO Benites was the driver and PO Dumelle was the passenger, and their vehicle was parked eastward of along Van Buren Street, PO Dumelle was the officer closest to set that time. Yet, it is PO Benites who claimed to have witnessed a transaction of money and objects – though she was unable to identify any transactions in viewing the video footage – while PO Dumelle testified that he was unable to see what was exchanged (BR 9, BR 16).
§ 87(2)(g)

Frisks and searches considered incidental to arrest are permissible only insofar as the arrest itself was lawful. People v. Reid, 24 N.Y.3d 615 (2014)(BR 32). Where officers observe neither currency nor the object being exchanged, these observations do not give rise to probable cause. People v. Thompson, 791 N.Y.S.2d 872. In order to frisk a person, an officer must have reasonable suspicion that the person is armed. People v. De Bour, 40 N.Y.2d 210 (1976). To search a person, an officer must have probable cause to believe the person has committed a crime. Id.

§ 87(2)(g)
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§ 87(2)(g)
Allegation G – Force - At Van Buren Street and Throop Avenue in Brooklyn, PO Adam
Dumelle used physical force against 887(2)(b) 887(2)(b) alleged that, after PO Dumelle searched him and began attempting to place him in
alleged that, after PO Dumelle searched him and began attempting to place him in handcuffs, \$87(2)(b) inquired as to why he was being arrested. In response, PO Dumelle
punched \$87(2)(b) with a closed fist on the right side of his face, to which \$87(2)(b) asked,
"Why are you punching me?" (BR 13).
who was standing nearby with PO Benites, observed \$87(2)(b) s interaction with
PO Dumelle. He testified that PO Dumelle told \$87(2)(6) to place his hands behind his back, to
which § 87(2)(b) replied, "What for?" PO Dumelle, who was standing behind § 87(2)(b)



Officers are to use the minimum force necessary during a police incident. NYPD Patrol Guide 203-11 (BR 10).



PO Dumelle denied making contact with \$87(2)(b) s neck area in the process of taking him to the ground, or at any point in their interaction. He testified that he brought § 87(2)(b) ground by placing his foot in front of \$87(2)(b) s legs and sweeping his feet out from under him (BR 9). PO Benites, instead, testified that \$87(2)(b) made his way to the ground on his own by putting his hands across his chest and leaning his upper body forward (BR 16). She stated that she never saw PO Dumelle place \$87(2)(b) in a chokehold or make any contact with \$87(2)(b) neck (BR 16). None of the video footage captured the moment in which the chokehold was alleged to have occurred(BR, BR 5, BR 33). According to NYPD Patrol Guide Procedure 203-11, police officers are not permitted to place individuals in a chokehold. A chokehold is defined, though not exhaustively, as any maneuver which applies pressure to the throat or windpipe, which may prevent or hinder breathing or reduce intake of air (BR 10). Allegation I – Force - At Van Buren Street and Throop Avenue in Brooklyn, Sgt. David Leonardi used a Taser against § 87(2)(b) It is undisputed that Sgt. Leonardi used a Taser against \$87(2)(b) while PO Dumelle, PO Benites, PO Cornejo, and PO Howard, were attempting to apprehend him. Not only do all three of the civilians and all five of the officers – including Sgt. Leonardi – testify as such, but the video footage provided by \$87(2)(b) captures Sgt. Leonardi yelling, "Stop or I'll tase you! Stop or I'll tase you!" pointing his Taser at \$87(2)(b) at which point the clicking sound of the Taser is audible (BR 4). Sgt. Leonardi prepared a Taser report after the incident, which notes that a Taser was used but that the prongs did not penetrate \$87(2)(6) s clothing, only his skin (BR 27). The command log also notes that a Taser was used against §87(2)(b) (BR 27).

According to \$\frac{\sigma^{37(2)(b)}}{\sigma} it took the officers approximately five minutes to handcuff him, but he was unable to account for what occurred during those five minutes, or describe what he was doing with his body while on the ground (BR 13). \$\frac{\sigma^{37(2)(b)}}{\sigma}\$ testified that he did not have a clear view of \$\frac{\sigma^{37(2)(b)}}{\sigma}\$ at the time, but that he did not believe that \$\frac{\sigma^{37(2)(b)}}{\sigma}\$ testified that just prior to Sgt. Leonardi using the Taser, \$\frac{\sigma^{37(2)(b)}}{\sigma}\$ appeared to already be restrained and was not fighting (BR 3).
Sgt. Leonardi testified that he chose to use the Taser against \$87(2)(5) because PO Dumelle had been unsuccessful in apprehending him, even with the assistance of two additional officers, and because Sgt. Leonardi was concerned for the injuries that a sustained struggle may cause for \$250 and the officers. He stated that \$87(2)(5) was moving his arms around and attempting to move himself onto his hands and knees, refusing to give his hands to the officers. Fifteen seconds following his arrival, Sgt. Leonardi testified that he gave two verbal commands to \$97(2)(5) to stop or he would use the Taser, at which point he deployed his Taser one time. \$87(2)(5) stopped struggling with the officers despite the prongs failing to make contact with his skin, ostensibly because he saw the Taser and heard the clicking noise (BR 14).
The video footage generally corroborates the officers' account of the struggle. During the time that PO Dumelle is seen struggling with \$87(2)(5) \$87(2)(5) is crouching on all fours, as if attempting to stand up. \$87(2)(5) is moving his arms and legs around such that PO Dumelle is unable to handcuff him. Sgt. Leonardi can be heard yelling "Stop or I'll Tase you!" twice, and seconds later the clicking sound of the Taser is audible (BR 4, Transcript: BR 33).
NYPD Patrol Guide Procedure dictates that a Taser may be used only against individuals who are actively physically resisting arrest, exhibitive active physical aggression, or to prevent individuals from physically injuring themselves or other persons (BR 10).
§ 87(2)(g)
Allegation J – Abuse of Authority – At the 79 th Precinct stationhouse, Sgt. David Leonardi authorized the strip-search of \$87(2)(b) and \$87(
testified that, while alone in a cell in the 79 th Precinct stationhouse, PO Dumelle and a second officer, determined by the investigation to be PO Howard, instructed \$87(2)(b) to strip naked and squat. No contraband was recovered from this search (BR 13).
PO Benites and PO Dumelle both testified that they did not know whether \$87(2)(b) and \$87(2)(b) were strip-searched (BR 9 and BR 16). PO Howard stated that he did not know whether

§ 87(2)(g)
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Allegation K – Abuse of Authority – At the 79 th Precinct stationhouse, PO Adam Dumelle searched \$\frac{\$87(2)(b)}{2}\$ s property. \$\frac{\$87(2)(b)}{2}\$ alleged that, after being arrested and strip-searched at the 79 th Precinct stationhouse, PO Dumelle searched the contents of his cell phone. In the process of questioning \$\frac{\$87(2)(b)}{2}\$ about his interaction with \$\frac{\$87(2)(b)}{2}\$ a conversation which lasted between ten and twenty minutes, PO Dumelle allegedly asked \$\frac{\$87(2)(b)}{2}\$ why he had called \$\frac{\$87(2)(b)}{2}\$ earlier that day, and informed \$\frac{\$87(2)(b)}{2}\$ that if he refused to cooperate, he would be kept from seeing his son. \$\frac{\$87(2)(b)}{2}\$ and a photo of his son were contained on his cell phone, prompting his allegation that PO Dumelle had searched its contents (BR 12).
testified that he was held in a different cell, and did not report witnessing PO Dumelle with \$87(2)(6) s phone or searching it (BR 13).
PO Dumelle testified that he searched \$87(2)(b) and \$87(2)(b) in front of the desk at the stationhouse and vouchered their property. No contraband was recovered from this search, and PO Dumelle had no further interaction with \$87(2)(b) When Sgt. Leonardi informed PO Dumelle that \$87(2)(b) s arrest was being voided because no contraband was recovered from him, PO Dumelle relayed this information to \$87(2)(b) and escorted him out of the stationhouse. PO Dumelle denied having had any further conversation with \$87(2)(b) at the stationhouse regarding his arrest, his charges, or anything else. PO Dumelle stated that he did not recall whether \$87(2)(b) had a cell phone in his possession when he was arrested and did not recall having vouchered it. He stated that he did not search through \$87(2)(b) s cell phone or discuss any information obtained from the cell phone with \$87(2)(b) nor did he see or hear of any other officer doing so (BR 21).
PO Benites did not recall whether she was ever in possession of \$87(2)(b) s cell phone and denied having searched its contents, or observed any other officer do so (BR.). PO Cornejo, PO Howard, Sgt. Leonardi each testified that they did not observe PO Dumelle searching \$87(2)(b) s phone (BR 19, BR 25, BR 14).
An officer may perform a warrantless search of a cell phone only when there is probable cause to believe the cell phone contains evidence of a crime and exigent circumstances. <u>Riley v. California</u> , 134 S.Ct. 2473 (2014).
§ 87(2)(g)

§ 87(4-b), § 87(2)(g)			
Team:			
Investigator:			_
Signature	Print	Date	
Supervisor:			-
Title/Signature	Print	Date	
Reviewer:Title/Signature	 Print	 Date	_
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Reviewer: Title/Signature	Print	Date	_